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Always at his office when not professionally engaged elsewhere.

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Practices in all the Courts of Halifax and adjoining counties and in the Supreme and Federal Courts. Claims collected in all parts of the State.

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JEWELRY
—AND—
SILVERWARE!!!
WATCHES AND CLOCKS
PUT IN PERFECT REPAIR.
We have engaged the services of
MR. J. D. PERRY,
from the Chicago Watch Makers' Institute, where he took a thorough course, and is prepared to do
ALL KINDS OF REPAIRING
And Engraving.
His office is at our show window in front. All work is guaranteed.
GIVE HIM A CALL
E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.,
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SCOTLAND NECK STEAM DYE WORKS
MOURNING GOODS A SPECIALTY
Get price list. Address
SCOTLAND NECK STEAM DYEING CO.
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BRICK!
HAVING INCREASED MY FACILITIES I AM NOW PREPARED TO FURNISH DOUBLE QUANTITY OF BRICK.
Also will take contract to furnish lots from 50,000 or more anywhere within 50 miles of Scotland Neck
Can always furnish what you want. Correspondence and orders solicited.
D. A. MADDY,
1-10-95-ly
Scotland Neck, N. C.
MENTION THIS PAPER.

SAAC EVANS,
GENERAL CARPENTER.
A specialty of Bracket and Scroll work of all kinds. Work done cheap and every piece guaranteed.
27 ly
SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.
"EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO.
VOL. XII. New Series--Vol. 1. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1896. NO. 37.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.
The change in the temperature at night last week brought needed sleep to many who had for three weeks lanned at night in vain trying to get a sufficient amount of "tired nature's sweet restorer."

The number of generals in the Southern Confederacy has been a question for discussion since the close of the war. It is said that the estimates vary from four hundred and twenty to four hundred and seventy-five. They have died more rapidly, it is claimed, since the war than the Federal officers. There are now not more than three dozen of the Confederate generals living.

Judge Albion W. Tourgee, once known to North Carolina, and who was a resident of the State, and carried away some ear-burning hatred of the Old North State, is professor in a Law school in Buffalo, New York. His only daughter who was born in North Carolina in 1870, is said to promise much as an artist. She has made a drawing of her father which is a perfect likeness, it is said.

John Lawson, a Scotch gentleman who came to America in 1700, wrote a history of North Carolina in 1714. In Manly's "Southern Literature," an extract from Lawson's history shows that a precinct then of Albemarle county was known as "Chuwon." Does Chowan county take its name from the name of "Chuwon" precinct? Or does the name of the beautiful Chowan river derive from "Chuwon" precinct and the county take name from the river?
Some one of leisure hours and with an inclination to study old records will perhaps find this an interesting investigation.

There are habits of study and habits in study. Whoever has the habit of study, can and will do the world good service thereby if he follows it up. Habits of study commit one to mental activity without especially dictating how or where he shall do his work; but habits in study hold the student down to certain idiosyncrasies from which he sometimes cannot easily break. Habits in study sometimes compel the student to have his lamp on the right or left side, as the case may be, else he cannot study at all. Some people would make light of such a thing; but to such we heard Evangelist R. G. Pearson once suggest that the reason they could not appreciate such a habit in study, is because they have never studied enough to know anything about the habit of study under any phase of its meaning. And there is much in it.

The "Zionite Movement" is one of which the world generally has heard practically very little, but it has more significance than one would at first imagine. It is a movement for the return of the Jews to their ancient home in the land of Palestine. It is said that for hundreds of years there has been talk of the Jews returning to Jerusalem, but the talked-of possibility has only been taking shape for about twelve years.
Through all their wanderings certain of the Jewish teachers have kept the idea before their minds, and since their persecution in Russia, it seems more like a probability. It is said that there are more than four thousand Jewish colonists in Palestine, and the Zionite movement is backed by the Rothschilds and other great Jewish families of wealth and influence. With a great popular leader it will doubtless in a few years be one of the important movements in history.
If the Jews ever make a great and permanent nation of themselves in their ancient home of Palestine, or anywhere else, they must do it by becoming Christianized as they become colonized, or the hand of God will be against them still.

AT BOSTAIN'S BRIDGE.

[On August 27, 1891, there was a wreck at Bostain's Bridge, near Statesville and more than a score of persons were killed.]
Ho, the bridge is bright in the morning sun,
There where the waters laughing run,
And slip by ferny dells along,
Mingling their music with birds' gay song.
The dew's a quiver on clover and corn
This summer morn.

Oh, the bridge gloomed over the waters red,
With blood of dying and of dead
And means of suffering filled the air,
And forms of dying pressed the fair
Wild flowers that lined the banks forlorn
One summer morn.

Yet the daisy's rim is pure as snow
No red blot lingers there to show
The dew that bathed it once. The stream
Is sparkling with a golden gleam,
The light breeze laughs; bright blooms adorn
This summer morn.

But hearts are lonely, day by day,
Since that score of souls was snatched away.
Yea, each lives in a heart of love
Luring it up to peace above.
Then death the hills and fields may scorn
This summer morn.

The season's pomp may roll away
In splendor o'er forgotten clay,
But the soul has still a place on earth,
Where time can ne'er abrade its worth—
Its image in some heart is worn
This summer morn.
M. E. L.
—Charlotte Observer.

Takes Good Care of Billy.

A correspondent of the N. Y. World writing about Mrs. Bryan's solicitude for her husband, tells this:

She watches her husband with fierce vigilance. She won't let him sit in a draught. She won't let him sit in the sun, and she marches him off to his meals, willy nilly.

"It's bad enough for him to get his food on the installment plan," she said, when they had left breakfast three times to go out and be cheered and speechified and welcomed; "but food he must have, committees or no committees."

She will not discuss politics. She will not talk about this State or that State. She hopes her husband will be elected. She says she doesn't think it would be any fun at all to be mistress of the White House. She says she could have a good deal better time in many ways if her husband was defeated, and for all that she hopes he will not be defeated.

"People are always asking me what is the secret of my husband's popularity," she said to-day. "They do not seem to realize that he represents a great principle. It isn't Bryan these people cheer; it's the things he represents."

"Some people call it magnetism," said a man with a note book.

"Perhaps they do," Mrs. Bryan said, quietly. "I call it truth, and an honest purpose in speaking it. That's the kind of magnetism I believe in."

Halo on Mt. Washington.

BETHLEHEM, N. H., Aug. 19.—At 10 o'clock Monday night a beam of light shot up from the Western horizon, and in ten minutes spread to the eastern horizon, forming a magnificent auroral halo. It was pure white and had the appearance of a narrow band of paper.

For two hours the centre of the arch inclined northward and at 12:08 it totally disappeared. From descriptions it seems to have possessed the same features as the one observed last week in Illinois.

During the continuance of the halo the northern light shone with great brilliancy, and there occurred a shower of meteors which lasted six minutes. From 10 o'clock to midnight the mercury dropped 18 degrees.

The temperature on Mt. Washington to-night, is 27, and a snow-storm is raging, with a howling gale. The phenomena were observed throughout the White mountains.

"For five weeks I lived on cold water, so to speak," writes a man who suffered terribly from indigestion. He could hardly keep anything on his stomach. What stayed was not properly digested and gave him terrible pain.

This is not an uncommon case. Dyspepsia does not get enough nourishment. They are generally thin and weak. They may eat enough but they don't digest enough. Much of what they eat turns into poison. If this keeps on there's no telling what disease they may get next.

That's why it is best to take Shaker Digestive Cordial, as soon as symptoms of indigestion appear. It cures all the evils which indigestion causes, and prevents the evils which indigestion causes.
Sold by druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 per bottle.

"THE BOY ORATOR."

YOUNGEST PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE.

A Study of William J. Bryan.

Leslie's Weekly.
The wonderful possibilities of American citizenship are strikingly illustrated in the nomination for the Presidency of William Jennings Bryan, who was selected at Chicago on the 10th of July last to lead the national Democracy in the quadrennial battle for national supremacy. Mr. Bryan was not a national figure prior to his speech at Chicago. He had won, it is true, fame of a tentative sort, through his brilliant speeches in Congress and his strength as an advocate of silver on the stump and forum in the South and West. But his youth and his comparatively circumscribed flight across the horizon of publicity kept his name from figuring in the list of possibilities. But, to paraphrase Burke Cockran, "his nomination was so much an improbability as to become a possibility." Chance gave him the opportunity to place the impress of his oratorical power upon the convention, and he proved his claim to greatness by rising to the occasion. His speech won him the nomination on the following day.

One of the charges brought against Mr. Bryan, in denial of his fitness for the Presidency, is that he is young. This is undeniable. He, himself, admits it, and the family Bible is a mute witness to the truth of the charge. Mr. Bryan has the distinction of being the youngest man ever nominated for the Presidency, and in fact is barely a year beyond the thirty-five year age limit of the Constitution. But, notwithstanding his youth, he had before his nomination for the Presidency achieved honors that have come to but comparatively few men in life.

He was very young, but thirty, when he was first elected to Congress, and had the honor during his first term of being appointed to a place on the Ways and Means committee. He was even younger when he first gained reputation as an eloquent, cogent, and interesting speaker.

Mr. Bryan was born in the small town of Salem, Illinois, on the 19th of March, 1860. His father was Judge Bryan for a number of years a judge of the circuit court which embraced the county of Marion, and who for eight years represented that district in the Illinois State Senate. William Jennings Bryan was born on a farm just outside of Salem, and now that he has achieved distinguished honors, he shares the fate, common to the great, of being remembered as a remarkably precocious child.

Mr. Bryan's predilection for politics speedily led him into the arena, where the greatest triumphs have since been won. In 1888 and 1889 he stumped the State for the Democratic ticket, and his star as an orator first appeared in the firmament. His rise in politics came about in a peculiar way. The Democratic party in Nebraska had for years been controlled by a coterie of old-line Democrats, but they had failed to achieve any measure of success. In 1888 the scholarly J. Sterling Morton, the present Secretary of Agriculture and one of the then leaders, was defeated by a large majority in his race for Congress in the First district, which then embraced the long-settled southeastern section of the State. In 1890 the Democratic nomination for Congress went begging, and when young Bryan came forward and asked for it it was willingly given him by the old guard. They had not looked with a kindly eye upon his rising fame, and it is shrewdly suspected that their ready acquiescence was given more to extinguish the new light than otherwise, as it was believed that where Morton had failed no Democrat had any hope for success.

The young candidate had already made himself the idol of the younger element of his party, and they gave an enthusiastic indorsement to his plans. He wrote his own platform, in which a tariff for revenue and free coinage of silver were the cardinal planks, and entered upon a canvass now memorable in the political annals of the State. One of his first moves was to challenge his opponent, Congressman W. J. Connell, to joint debate. Connell was an Omaha lawyer, who had been fairly successful in practice at the bar, and contrary to Bryan's expectations, he accepted the challenge. He was, however, no match for Bryan, and when the votes were counted it was found that the latter had overturned a Republican majority of three thousand two hundred and carried district by six thousand eight hundred.

While a resident of Illinois Mr. Bryan had rendered yeoman political service to Congressman Springer, and in the preliminary contest for the speakership in the Fifty-second Congress he espoused that gentleman's cause. When Springer made his terms with Crisp he rewarded Bryan's devotion by securing him a place on the Ways and Means committee. His maiden speech was delivered March 16th, 1892, in support of the Springer free-wool bill. It placed him at a single bound in the front ranks of the advocates of a revenue tariff. His readiness and resources as a debater soon made him a dangerous antagonist, and the eminence he gained was maintained during his entire term of service. In 1892 he was renominated. The State had been redistricted and the First made strongly Republican. Allen W. Field, of Lincoln, an able lawyer, was pitted against him, but Bryan pulled through by the slender majority of one hundred and forty-two. He declined to make the race a third time, and since his retirement from Congress he has divided his time between editorial work on the Omaha World-Herald and the spreading of the silver propaganda in the West and South.

When Mr. Bryan came to Nebraska he wore a heavy beard and mustache, but he soon discarded both. He has a strong, clean-cut, fine-lined face. His eye is kindly, yet piercing. His hair is raven black, with a widening circle of baldness upon the crown of his head. He is athletic in build, and his massive head in profile is strikingly like that of his distinguished opponent, Major McKinley. A distinguishing feature of the man is the unusual width of his mouth, although the lips are thin and sensitive. He is a handsome man, whose appearance before an audience inevitably attracts instant attention and interest. The predominant characteristic of his countenance is frankness. His mental alertness is shown in every movement of his eyes, his features and his lips. His voice is strong, resonant, pleasing, capable of modulation. His gestures are graceful and easy, and before an audience he is a consummate actor, his voice and body lending themselves easily to the necessities of the moment. His manners are most engaging. He never betrays passion, but candor, earnestness, and sincerity are the impressions he gives to his auditors. He is plain, simple, direct in language, and draws his illustrations impartially from the classics and from current history.

Mr. Bryan is not a demagogue; his sincerity and his earnestness are too evident. He is a man convinced that his is the cause of the people; that it is sure to triumph; that not all the hordes of organized wealth can defeat that cause upon which he believes God has placed the seal "Just." Secure in that conviction, he has resisted all temptations to secure riches and certain honors by wearing the livery of plutocracy, one of which is said to have involved the offer, from an Eastern State, of a United States Senatorship as long as he wished—supposed to have come from Tammany. In his early life he looked forward to a Congressional career, and with that end in view he fitted himself for discussion of the great problems of government. After his triumphs in Congress he dreamed of the Presidency but the nomination has come to him earlier than he believed likely.

Mr. Bryan is a politician of the higher type. He likes politics. He believes that every young man should take an active interest in the game, and he believes the country would be all the better for it if they did. He is adroit, active, audacious, and tireless, and under his generalship the old leaders have been overthrown. His victory was achieved partly through tactical skill and partly through the hold he has upon the affections of his followers. His only reverse has been a defeat for the United States Senatorship. In 1894 he made an offensive and defensive alliance with the Populists to secure the majority of the Legislature, and, though defeated, it was a close call for the Republicans, twenty of their Assemblymen being victors by less than fifty votes.

Mr. Bryan is a religious man, a trait of character inherited from his father, who frequently interrupted the work of his court to engage in prayer. But his piety is not demonstrative or intrusive. He is a man of admirable poise of character, has never been heard to utter a profane word, nor does he use tobacco or intoxicants in any form.

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HARRY T. DOBBINS.

TRIAL BY JURY.

SOME PROS AND CONS.

What Judge Townner Says.

Philadelphia Record.
Formerly in English-speaking countries there was but one opinion as to the merits of the jury system. English liberty was supposed, in good part, to rest upon it. It was the palladium of the citizen; the chief security for his rights of property and person. The old faith has lost much of its fervor. In England, unless the party to a suit signify in advance that he desires a jury the cause is tried by the Court. In Admiralty, both in this country and in England, a cause is heard by the Court alone. And it would seem upon a first view, that a Judge whose tenure of office is fixed, and who is accustomed to sit and to weigh evidence, should be more apt to arrive at a just conclusion than would twelve men of various pursuits who are suddenly brought from the active duties of life and compelled to listen to the details of complicated transactions without that training and experience which enables Courts to discriminate between the true and the false, the apparent and the real. But it should be observed, on the other hand, that in a large number of cases the jurors, from knowledge derived from their own business, are very competent experts, and almost intuitively detect on which side the truth lies, and bring in their verdicts accordingly.

Probably the most effective argument in defense of the jury system is its educational influence. The jurors who take part in the administration of the law, are very likely to respect the law and to have their minds opened and enlarged. After such an experience it may in some sort be said that they become better citizens and more sensible in the duties they owe the State. Still, from the change of sentiment in England, which is more or less marked, and the discussion in America, which has developed different opinions, it may be said that the long continuance of trial by jury is, at least, open to doubt. What Judge Townner, of Iowa, says upon the subject in the following extracts from his article in the American Law Register and Review for August will, we feel sure, interest our readers:

"In these times, when a leading law magazine says of trial by jury: 'It is the greatest evil of modern times; it is an infinite evil in civil cases; in criminal cases it is a positive curse to society.' Trial by jury is simply a trial by popular prejudice; when an eminent American Judge advises its total abolition; when Lord Herschell, in England, writes that in all complicated cases it is in his judgment 'eminently unsuitable;' when Lord Coleridge adds: 'Long experience and much reflection lead me to give up the opinion in favor of it which I formerly entertained, and to adopt strongly an opinion adverse to it in civil cases,' it is certainly wise to examine and weigh carefully the system. In the rural districts of the Western States there can be little question of its merits. Mistakes are so few, and the advantages so manifest, that no one with practical knowledge of its working would dream of its abandonment. There is no possible substitute for the jury system but trials by Courts. And it may without hesitancy be said that juries make no more mistakes than Courts, and are as often right in their verdicts as Judges are in their rulings. When this is considered, and the immense benefit that results from the people's becoming thus identified with the administration of the law, the question is hardly longer debatable. It is, however, true that this is largely owing to the superior clubs of men who constitute our juries. They are not street loafers nor Court idlers, but farmers and tradesmen, who own their own homes; who read the newspapers; who, it not nighly educated are intelligent; and who, if they do not give many evidences of culture, are thinking men who form their own opinions, and who are independent enough to be just. What I say will doubtless seem extravagant to many; but it is an opinion deliberately formed and one which is strengthened by every day's experience on the bench."

ed him at a single bound in the front ranks of the advocates of a revenue tariff. His readiness and resources as a debater soon made him a dangerous antagonist, and the eminence he gained was maintained during his entire term of service. In 1892 he was renominated. The State had been redistricted and the First made strongly Republican. Allen W. Field, of Lincoln, an able lawyer, was pitted against him, but Bryan pulled through by the slender majority of one hundred and forty-two. He declined to make the race a third time, and since his retirement from Congress he has divided his time between editorial work on the Omaha World-Herald and the spreading of the silver propaganda in the West and South.

When Mr. Bryan came to Nebraska he wore a heavy beard and mustache, but he soon discarded both. He has a strong, clean-cut, fine-lined face. His eye is kindly, yet piercing. His hair is raven black, with a widening circle of baldness upon the crown of his head. He is athletic in build, and his massive head in profile is strikingly like that of his distinguished opponent, Major McKinley. A distinguishing feature of the man is the unusual width of his mouth, although the lips are thin and sensitive. He is a handsome man, whose appearance before an audience inevitably attracts instant attention and interest. The predominant characteristic of his countenance is frankness. His mental alertness is shown in every movement of his eyes, his features and his lips. His voice is strong, resonant, pleasing, capable of modulation. His gestures are graceful and easy, and before an audience he is a consummate actor, his voice and body lending themselves easily to the necessities of the moment. His manners are most engaging. He never betrays passion, but candor, earnestness, and sincerity are the impressions he gives to his auditors. He is plain, simple, direct in language, and draws his illustrations impartially from the classics and from current history.

Mr. Bryan is not a demagogue; his sincerity and his earnestness are too evident. He is a man convinced that his is the cause of the people; that it is sure to triumph; that not all the hordes of organized wealth can defeat that cause upon which he believes God has placed the seal "Just." Secure in that conviction, he has resisted all temptations to secure riches and certain honors by wearing the livery of plutocracy, one of which is said to have involved the offer, from an Eastern State, of a United States Senatorship as long as he wished—supposed to have come from Tammany. In his early life he looked forward to a Congressional career, and with that end in view he fitted himself for discussion of the great problems of government. After his triumphs in Congress he dreamed of the Presidency but the nomination has come to him earlier than he believed likely.

Mr. Bryan is a politician of the higher type. He likes politics. He believes that every young man should take an active interest in the game, and he believes the country would be all the better for it if they did. He is adroit, active, audacious, and tireless, and under his generalship the old leaders have been overthrown. His victory was achieved partly through tactical skill and partly through the hold he has upon the affections of his followers. His only reverse has been a defeat for the United States Senatorship. In 1894 he made an offensive and defensive alliance with the Populists to secure the majority of the Legislature, and, though defeated, it was a close call for the Republicans, twenty of their Assemblymen being victors by less than fifty votes.

Mr. Bryan is a religious man, a trait of character inherited from his father, who frequently interrupted the work of his court to engage in prayer. But his piety is not demonstrative or intrusive. He is a man of admirable poise of character, has never been heard to utter a profane word, nor does he use tobacco or intoxicants in any form.

Mr. Bryan's domestic relations have been most felicitous. He was married twelve years ago to Mary Baird, the daughter of a well-to-do merchant of Perry, Illinois, and three children, Ruth, aged eleven, William J., aged six, and Grace, aged five, have blessed the union. He resides at 1625 D St., in a handsome home in which, through the generosity of his father-in-law, he was enabled to begin life in the West. Mrs. Bryan is a finely educated woman, a leader in club life in the city, and thoroughly devoted to her husband. She believes he is destined to accomplish great things, and confident of his election to the Presidency. After their marriage, in order to identify herself more closely with her husband's life-work, she studied law and was admitted to the Bar after a satisfactory examination by a critical board, but she has never practiced. She is studious, like her husband, and their library contains but little of fiction, the orations of the moderns and the ancients and treatises on political economy predominating. She cares little for society. Her devotion to her husband's interests is fully appreciated by him.

HARRY T. DOBBINS.

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